

BOROUGH OF SALTASH

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1971



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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF SALTASH

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The population of No. 7 Health Area as estimated on the 30th June, 1971 was 55,190 - an increase of 1,790 over the corresponding date in 1970. Liskeard Rural District showed the largest increase of 800, and was closely followed by the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 660. In the Borough of Liskeard a sizeable increase of 350 was estimated, and there were much smaller increases at Torpoint and Looe. In the St Germans Rural District there was a fall of 120 in population.

The number of live births registered during 1971 rose sharply to 855 an increase of 86 over the previous year. This produced a corrected birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 of population - some 3.1 per 1,000 above the corresponding figure for England and Wales. Of these 855 live births 64 were illegitimate births and represented 7.5% of all live births. This was one half per cent below the national figure. With an undoubted increase in sexual promiscuity, one might reasonably apprehend an increase in births of children outside wedlock. On the other hand the gradual increase and spread of knowledge about contraception, and the readier availability of abortion may more than offset the effects of sexual permissiveness and we could well see some reduction in the number of illegitimate births. The rates for still-births and for infant mortality were below those for the country as a whole. Unfortunately one 28 year old mother died during 1971 from a haemorrhage complicating childbirth.

There were 779 deaths, an increase of 11 over the total for the previous year. This yielded a corrected rate per 1,000 of population of 11.8 which was only fractionally higher than the rate for England and Wales. As is usual heart disease was responsible for the highest number of deaths, and caused 39% of all deaths. Cancer in all its forms caused 20% of all deaths, and the most lethal single form of cancer was that affecting the lung which caused 35 deaths. Of the 779 persons who died during 1971, some 373 or 49% of the total had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

The incidence of notifiable disease was again quite light during the year. In all 109 cases were notified, and apart from 4 cases of infective jaundice which can cause permanent damage to the liver, and very occasionally has a fatal outcome, none of the more serious types of notifiable disease occurred. The one case of malaria which was notified involved a young man from Nigeria, who was undergoing training in a Naval Establishment. Of the 109 cases notified, 44 were measles, 35 whooping cough and there were 18 cases of scarlet fever.



During the year 14 new cases of tuberculosis were notified a sizeable increase over the admittedly low total of 8 new cases in 1970. Of the new cases 10 were respiratory infections, and in 4 other parts of the body were involved. In 8 of the cases males were affected and 9 out of the total of 14 infections were aged 45 years or more at the time of infection. In two instances death was attributed to tuberculosis, the persons involved being a female aged 65 years, and a male aged 71 years.

In carrying out the regular annual campaign for the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination of 12 year old schoolchildren a 12 year old girl was found to have a strongly positive tuberculin reaction. Further investigation of this child and the family contacts disclosed that she and her mother were suffering from active tuberculosis, and from the condition of the mothers lungs it appeared that her infection had been present for some time and had probably been passed from her to her daughter. Some six months later a third member of the family - a boy aged 7 was found to have X-ray evidence of early tuberculosis. During 1970 of 558 schoolchildren who had their tuberculin test read, some 527 were found to need B.C.G. vaccination and were given it.

In closing this general preface I would again offer to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve my sincere thanks for the assistance and understanding I have received from them during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P.J.FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.





STAFF

-oOo-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P.J. FOX,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANT


T.M. KELLY

CLERK

1.1.71 to 12.3.71 C.V. BOND (Miss)  
15.2.71 to 31.12.71 M.A. SOADY (Mrs.)

OPERATIVE

W.C. DIMMICK



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SECTION 'A'

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of the Borough:	5,386 acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of the Resident Population (mid 1971):	9,940
Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31.3.72):	3,591
Rateable Value (at 31.3.72):	£349,639
Product of 1p rate (1971/72):	£3,462

Vital Statistics for 1971.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Live Births:	109	94	203	
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7.</u>		<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population:	22.2	19.1		16.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths:	77	52	129	
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>		<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
Death rate per 1,000 of population:	11.7	11.8		11.6
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths of infants under one year of age:	4	-	4	
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>		<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	20.0	12.9		18.0

Principal Causes of Death at all Ages:

Heart disease:	42.
Cancer (all sites):	30.
Respiratory Disease:	15.
Stroke:	14.
Circulatory Disease:	8.
Accidents:	4.

The excess of births over deaths was very large. Of the 203 live births 9 were illegitimate - a percentage of 4.4. There were no still births or maternal deaths during the year. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death that affecting the lung and bronchus was most prevalent and was responsible for one third of all cancer deaths.

Of those who died during the year 42% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.



SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

1. Particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority:

These particulars are incorporated at the beginning of the report.

2. Committees:

All Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health Committee of the Borough Council.

3. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47:

No action under this section was called for during the year.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50:

No action under this section was called for during the year.





## SECTION 'C'

### PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply:

##### (a) Quality:

The quality of mains water supplied to the Borough continued to be satisfactory. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken regularly during the year, a total of twenty-one samples being obtained. The Public Health Laboratory Service reports on these samples were as follows:

Satisfactory	15
Unsatisfactory	6

The unsatisfactory samples in each case indicated **very** low level contamination and follow-up samples proved to be satisfactory.

##### (b) Quantity:

An ample quantity of water is normally available but owing to the very dry summer, restrictions on the use of water were imposed by the East Cornwall Water Board from the 4th June to the 29th June, and from the 18th October to the 1st December.

##### (c) Plumbo-Solvency:

The total hardness of mains water varies between 12 and 13. The water has little or no action on lead and no cases of lead poisoning were reported.

##### (d) Proportion of Population Supplied from Public Water Mains:

Except for one or two isolated dwellings the whole of the Borough is provided with a mains water supply. The proportion of the population supplied by means of stand-pipes is negligible.

#### 2. Drainage:

The Department continued to exercise careful control over the construction of new drainage systems within the Borough, a total of five hundred and seven visits being made for this purpose. One thousand two hundred and fifteen separate tests were applied.

#### 3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

Contractors commenced work in August in connection with laying 5 miles of sewers, constructing 4 pumping stations and extending the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Coombe at an estimated total cost of £700,000. As a result of this work all existing crude sewage outfalls into the River Tamar will be abandoned.

#### 4. Closet Accommodation:

So far as is known there are now no earth closets in use in the Borough.





## 5. Public Cleansing:

### (a) Refuse Collection:

Refuse collection in the Borough continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, two vehicles being regularly employed for this purpose. A once weekly general collection is made throughout the Borough, with food shops receiving a twice weekly service. The collection of trade refuse is also undertaken, a small annual charge being levied in respect of this.

### (b) Refuse Disposal:

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Salt Mill Tip and every effort is made to comply with Government recommendations in respect of controlled tipping. Regular measures continue to be taken to eradicate insect and rodent pests by chemical means.

### (c) Street Cleansing:

Street cleansing continued to be carried out in a regular and efficient manner. The frequency varies from once daily to once weekly according to the type of street.

### (d) Cesspool Emptying:

The emptying of cesspools is carried out by arrangement with a private firm.

## 6. Public Conveniences:

Male and female public conveniences are provided at:

Alexandra Square Car Park,  
Longstone Park,  
St. Stephens,  
Warfelton Sports Field and  
Waterside.

## 7. Public Health Inspection of the area:

The inspection of all districts continued to be carried out regularly by the Public Health Inspector and Technical Assistant, the following specific visits and inspections being made:

Unfit houses (repairable at reasonable cost)	..	..	18
Unfit houses (not repairable at reasonable cost)	..	..	4
House improvements	..	..	175
Overcrowding	..	..	1
Rent control	..	..	8
Butchers' shops	..	..	2
Confectioners' shops	..	..	3
Greengrocers' shops	..	..	2
Grocers' shops	..	..	9
Ice-cream premises	..	..	7
Milk distributors	..	..	3
Cafes, etc.	..	..	1
Licensed premises	..	..	6
Slaughterhouses	..	..	5
Meat Inspection	..	..	82
Food Inspection	..	..	18
Food complaints	..	..	6
Factories	..	..	40
Farms	..	..	111
Offices	..	..	19

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	B/fwd.	520
Shops	.. ..	42
Water supply	.. ..	22
Drainage	.. ..	507
Sewerage	.. ..	44
Sewage disposal	.. ..	9
Refuse storage and collection	.. ..	5
Refuse disposal	.. ..	4
Offensive odours	.. ..	14
Noise nuisances	.. ..	15
Offensive trades	.. ..	3
Storage of petroleum spirit	.. ..	42
Offensive accumulations	.. ..	29
Vacant land	.. ..	2
Keeping of animals	.. ..	20
Animal boarding establishments	.. ..	1
Waste food boiling plant	.. ..	3
Pet shops	.. ..	1
Diseases of animals	.. ..	1
Rodent control	.. ..	11
Insect control	.. ..	9
Infectious diseases	.. ..	29
Burial of the dead	.. ..	2
Oyster fishery	.. ..	187
		<hr/> 1,522
Other visits (unclassified)		223
		<hr/> <hr/> 1,745

#### 8. Factories Act, 1961:

Co-operation continued to be maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act.

The following table gives the number of factories in the Borough and details of inspections made.

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections, 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	24	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	14	16	0	0
	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0

#### 9. Outworkers:

Twelve outworkers were notified in the October list, all of them being employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel. No instances of work being carried out in unwholesome premises were discovered.





10. Offices, Shops, etc.

Forty-seven premises were inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, during the year, a total number of sixty-one visits being made for this purpose. The inspections revealed the following contraventions:

Lack of a thermometer	9
Inadequate lighting	5
Unsuitable sanitary conveniences	5
Inadequate washing facilities	6
Defective floors, passages or doors	4
Inadequate first aid materials	7
Other contraventions	19
	<hr/>
	55
	<hr/>

11. Noise:

Several complaints concerning alleged noise nuisance were investigated by the Department but in no case was formal action necessary.

12. Insect Control:

The Department continued to provide a service for the destruction of insect pests. The following table gives details of treatments carried out:

<u>Type of Infestation</u>	<u>No. of treatments</u>
Fleas	11
Beetles	4
Ants	8
Wasps	30
Woodworm	6
Flies	43
Other	11
	<hr/>
	113
	<hr/>

13. Rodent Control:

The control of rodents continued to be carried out on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

During the year two thousand, eight hundred and thirty-six inspections were made by the Operative, three hundred and nine infestations being discovered. A successful treatment was carried out in the case of each infestation.

The annual 10% testing of sewer manholes was carried out in April. 99 manholes were tested, evidence of infestation being found in 13 cases. These and 28 adjoining manholes were subsequently treated with poison bait, leaving the town's sewers virtually rat free.

14. Pet Animals Act, 1951:

One shop is registered under this Act.

15. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963:

One establishment is registered under this Act.

16. Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957:

Four premises are registered under this Act.

17. Educational Activities:

No new educational activities were undertaken by the Department during the year.



SECTION 'D'

1. Demolition of Unfit Houses:

(a) Clearance areas:

No houses were dealt with by clearance area procedure.

(b) Individual Unfit Houses:

No individual unfit houses were demolished during the year.

2. Closure of Unfit Houses:

Two houses and four rooms in the basement of a house were closed for the purpose of human habitation during the year.

3. Repair of Unfit Houses:

Two houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action taken by the Council. No formal action was taken.

4. Improvements:

(a) Improvement Grants:

In the period 1st April, 1971 to 31st March, 1972, seven improvement grants, amounting to £2,094.58, were paid.

(b) Standard Grants:

In the period 1st April, 1971 to 31st March, 1972, sixteen standard grants, amounting to £3,656.11, were paid.

5. New House Construction:

(a) Local Authority:

Twenty-one new Council dwellings, consisting of two 3 bedroom houses, 8 two bedroom houses and eleven 1 bedroom bungalows for elderly people, were completed during the year.

(b) Private:

One hundred and twenty-three private dwellings were erected in the Borough during the year.





SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk:

Milk supplied to the town continued to be obtained from several private producers and from a large pasteurising establishment. The supervision of the production of milk on farms continued to be in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The pasteurising establishment is inspected and controlled by officers of the County Council.

2. Meat:

(a) Slaughterhouses:

One slaughterhouse is licensed in the Borough. The building complies with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughterhouses (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, and is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(b) Slaughtermen:

Three men are licensed to slaughter animals.

(c) Meat Inspection:

All animals slaughtered were inspected according to the method and criteria of meat inspection laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The following table gives details of animals slaughtered and inspections made during the year:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	140	0	0	1	0	0
Number inspected	140	0	0	1	0	0

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT  
TUBERCULOSIS AND  
CYSTICERCOSIS:

Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	31	0	0	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0



	Cattle excluding COWS	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY:</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

### 3. Ice-cream:

Twenty-two premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

Seven samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:

Provisional Grade 1 - 3 samples,  
                   "          " 2 - 1 sample,  
                               3 - 3 samples.

### 4. Shellfish:

Co-operation was maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Truro Public Health Laboratory in their investigations into the condition of oysters dredged from the River Lynher. The Department carried out 187 visits in connection with the fishery. Samples of oysters were taken on 36 occasions and samples of sea-water on 89 occasions.

### 5. Other foods:

The following food-stuffs were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered voluntarily:

	lbs.	ozs.
Canned vegetables	164	12
" fruit	314	4
" meat	143	6
" fish	9	14
" milk, cream, etc.	22	8
" puddings	2	12
Preserves	2	0
Canned soup	26	2
Frozen pastry	47	9
" vegetables	195	12
" meat	123	14
" fish	58	21
Ice cream	3	12
	<u>1,115</u>	<u>14</u>

During the previous year (1970) the amount of food found to be unfit (other than meat at the Slaughterhouse) was 1,892 lbs. 3 ozs. There was thus a decrease during the year under review of 776 lbs. 5 ozs.





6. Food Complaints:

Three food complaints were investigated by the Department during the year. They concerned:

Mouldy bread	- 1 case
Mouldy tea	- 1 case
Canned fruit containing foreign matter	- 1 case

Appropriate informal action was taken in each case.

7. Food Premises:

(a) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as follows:

Grocers	16
Bakers	1
Butchers	6
Cafes and restaurants	5
Fish fryers	3
Fishmongers	1
Greengrocers	6
Dairies	1
Distributors of milk	15
Licensed premises	10
Confectioners	4

(b) The number of food premises by type registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16:

(i) Ice Cream:

Grocers	14
Confectioners	2
Mixed premises	6
	<hr/>
	22
	<hr/>

(ii) Other:

Butchers (sausage making)	3
Fish-fryers	3
	<hr/>
	6
	<hr/>

8. Method and Disposal of Unfit Food:

Unfit food continues to be disposed of by burial at the Salt Mill Tip. Meat found to be unfit at the Slaughterhouse is removed and destroyed by the Department.

9. Food Poisoning Outbreaks:

Two sporadic cases of food poisoning were notified. In one the source of infection was almost certainly food consumed immediately prior to returning to the United Kingdom from a holiday in Europe. In the other case the source of the infection could not be established.



SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis).

During the year the prevalence of this group of diseases was quite light. None of the more serious forms of notifiable disease occurred.

The following are details of cases and case rates:

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population.</u>	
		<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7.</u>
Measles	11	1.11	0.80
Whooping cough	3	0.30	0.63
Infective jaundice	2	0.20	0.07
Food poisoning	2	0.20	0.13

2. Tuberculosis.

One case only was notified during 1971, and involved a 26 year old male who had a respiratory infection.

The following are comparative case rates for this disease:

	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population.</u>	
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7.</u>
New cases	0.10	0.25
All known cases	2.11	1.96

At the end of 1971 there were 16 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 5 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Borough.





APPENDIX 1PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1971

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Heart disease	86	83	42	20	38	33	302
Cancer(all sites)	44	37	30	15	14	16	156
Stroke	31	26	14	4	29	7	111
Respiratory disease	22	18	15	3	5	10	73
Circulatory disease	7	4	8	8	3	3	33
Accidents	7	3	2	4	2	2	20
Digestive disease	5	3	2	-	1	-	11
Genito-urinary disease	3	2	3	-	1	1	10

APPENDIX 2TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1971

TYPE OF DISEASE	St. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.E.	HEALTH AREA No. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	64	65	37	15	35	24	240
Hypertensive disease	6	9	1	-	1	1	18
Rheumatic heart disease	-	2	1	1	1	1	6
Other heart disease	16	7	3	4	1	7	38
Cancer of Lung / Bronchus	7	9	10	4	3	2	35
Cancer of Intestine	6	7	6	1	1	3	24
Cancer of stomach	3	3	4	3	1	3	17
Cancer of breast	4	4	2	-	1	1	12
Cancer of uterus	3	1	-	1	2	-	7
Leukaemia	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Other cancers	18	13	8	5	6	5	55

APPENDIX 3DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST.GERMANS R.D.	3	3	7	43	60	107	223
LISKEARD.R.D.	5	3	8	39	53	88	196
SALTASH M.B.	4	-	3	27	41	54	129
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	6	14	18	18	56
LISKEARD M.B.	1	-	1	11	26	61	100
LOOE U.D.	-	-	3	13	14	45	75
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	13	6	28	147	212	373	779



APPENDIX 4TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 - 1971

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 YEARS	-	-	-
5 - 14 YEARS	1	2	3
15 - 24 YEARS	-	-	-
25 - 44 YEARS	1	1	2
45 - 64 YEARS	5	-	5
65 YEARS AND OVER	1	3	4
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New Case rate per 1,000 of population	0.145	0.109	0.254

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1971

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMANS R.D.	0.19	1.39	0.07
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.65	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.10	2.11	0.10
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.42	-
LISKEARD M.B.	0.95	4.19	-
LOOE U.D.	0.49	2.72	-
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.25	1.96	0.04
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.16	2.20	0.04

APPENDIX 5

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS  
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
25 - 34 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	2	3
55 - 64 years	7	1	8
65 - 74 years	12	2	14
75 and over	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>29</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>35</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 of POPULATION - 1971

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.525	0.109	0.634
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.395	0.114	0.509
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.516	0.114	0.630

